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## Viewing cable 06TELAVIV4606, APHSCT TOWNSEND'S NOVEMBER 12 MEETING WITH ISRAELI

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### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06TELAVIV4606**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06TELAVIV4606	2006-11-24 13:34	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Tel Aviv

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/9097>  
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<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/9108>

null  
Carol X Weakley 11/27/2006 02:27:14 PM From DB/Inbox: Carol X Weakley

Cable  
Text:

C O N F I D E N T I A L

TEL AVIV 04606

SIPDIS  
CXTela:

ACTION: POL  
INFO: RES ECON DCM DAO AMB AID ADM IPSC PD IMO RSO  
CONS

DISSEMINATION: POL  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: CHG:GCRETZ  
DRAFTED: CONS:BEBOLTON  
CLEARED: POL/C:MJSIEVERS, DAO:DOMEARA, POL:MCKEAYS

VZCZCTVI119  
PP RUEHC RUEHXX RHEFDIA RUEAIIA RUEKJCS RHEHNSC  
RHMFISS RHEHAAA RUEKJCS  
DE RUEHTV #4606/01 3281334  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 241334Z NOV 06  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7795  
INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 TEL AVIV 004606

SIPDIS

THE WHITE HOUSE FOR APHSCT FRANCES FRAGOS TOWNSEND  
NSC FOR MALVESTI  
STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA (MAHER), S/CT (AMBASSADOR CRUMPTON)  
JOINT STAFF FOR J-5  
HQ USEUCOM FOR ECJ-5 (KLOTHE)  
PENTAGON FOR OSD ISRAEL DESK (ANDERSON)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/24/2026  
TAGS: [PTER](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [OVIP](#) [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [SY](#) [LE](#) [IS](#)  
SUBJECT: APHSCT TOWNSEND'S NOVEMBER 12 MEETING WITH ISRAELI  
DMI FOCUSES ON SYRIA, WAR ON TERROR

Classified By: Classified by Charge Gene Cretz. Reasons: 1.4 (b) (d).

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SUMMARY  
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¶1. (C) Israeli Director of Military Intelligence MGEN Amos Yadlin told Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism (APHSCT) Frances Fragos Townsend November 12 that Israel distrusts Bashar Asad's overtures regarding peace with Israel. Yadlin believes Asad is actually preparing for the possibility of low-intensity conflict between the two countries, and asked for USG assistance in putting more pressure on Damascus. Yadlin said that all indicators suggest that Syria continues to supply weapons to Hizballah; meanwhile, Hizballah is "not in good shape" and is buying time to rebuild its infrastructure. Yadlin said that Israel is concerned about Al Qaeda's encroachment into the Middle East, including the Gaza Strip. He said that in the wake of the Baker-Hamilton Commission report, Israel might want to re-examine the situation in Iraq. Yadlin praised the U.S. for its successes in the War on Terror and volunteered any help Israel could provide. END SUMMARY.

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YADLIN SUGGESTS ENGAGING SYRIA  
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¶2. (C) Citing press reports, APHSCT Townsend asked Yadlin whether Israel is considering engagement with Syria. Yadlin

characterized the reports as an "out-of-context leak" of discussions that took place the previous week on Israel's policy towards Syria, Lebanon and Iran. Yadlin said that Israel's policy towards Syria is to maintain the status quo, with a quiet border and neither peace nor war. He noted that Syrian President Bashar Asad, meanwhile, seems to be attempting to escalate tensions. Yadlin recounted that in the Syrian President's statements about openness to negotiating with Israel, Asad said that if his efforts to seek peace are not fruitful (which appears likely), then he will go to war. Asad has chosen this rhetorical position, Yadlin said, based on American performance in Iraq and Israel's performance in Lebanon. Knowing that he cannot fight a full-on war against Israel, Asad would prefer to engage in low-intensity conflict involving longer-range missiles and close combat between commando forces -- what Yadlin termed, "a low-signature war." Yadlin clarified that the position he took in the policy discussion -- which was leaked out of context -- was that in such a situation, Israel has a moral obligation to confront him to expose whether he genuinely seeks peace.

13. (C) Yadlin said the U.S. should push Asad harder, adding that Damascus is "not worried about sanctions, and the sanctions are not hurting Asad enough." Townsend agreed that Asad's behavior has worsened, and cautioned that engaging him now would reinforce his bad behavior and fail to separate Iran and Syria. Confronting Damascus, Yadlin said, could be a win/win tactic, furthering the peace process and exposing Asad's support for terrorism (even while he pays lip-service to pursuing peace). Yadlin gave Townsend a copy of GOI's ten recommendations on how to increase pressure on Asad, saying, "We have to take everything he cares about and make him pay."

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SYRIA RESUPPLYING HIZBALLAH  
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14. (C) Citing what he acknowledged is a patchwork of evidence and "no smoking gun," Yadlin said that Syria continues to supply Hizballah with weapons: "We see that the Iranians are sending containers belonging to a well-defined unit that deals in Zelzal missiles. We have Muhammed Suleiman doing business. We see a Hizballah logistics man involved. All are pieces. There is no concrete proof, but indications that transfers are taking place." Yadlin added that there is "not a full river" of armaments flowing into Lebanon, but a cluster of "little streams of support."

15. (C) Yadlin characterized Hizballah as "not in good shape," saying that the organization's "nightmare" is another war with Israel in the near future. He said that Hizballah needs time to rebuild houses, infrastructure, and its own political reputation before it would be ready for another confrontation.

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ASAD'S REGIME FACES NO THREATS FROM WITHIN  
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16. (C) In response to the Charge's question about whether Asad has solidified his position, Yadlin said that the Syrian leader is in a more confident position than he was a year and a half ago when he "withdrew from Lebanon in a panic." Yadlin said that Syria's priorities are A) regime stability; B) Lebanon; and C) the Golan Heights. Yadlin said that Israel sees no threat to Asad's regime from the inside. He pointed to an increase in the price of oil, along with support from Iran and Russia, as the reasons for Asad's strengthened position.

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YADLIN: AL QAEDA IS MOVING WEST  
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¶7. (C) Yadlin said that a "preponderance of overt speeches and secret messages" suggests that that Al Qaeda has been moving west. He claimed that some Al Qaeda officials are currently in Iran and move to Iraq from time to time. He claimed that other Al Qaeda figures who have appeared in Iraq and Jordan were behind terrorist attacks in countries neighboring Israel over the past two years. At the end of 2005, Al Qaeda even launched rockets towards Israel from Lebanon. He added that in Gaza, a former Fatah faction has moved closer to Al Qaeda's ideology. Yadlin said that Al Qaeda is not really an organization, but an idea that people join. When Townsend asked Yadlin's thoughts on cooperation between al-Qaida and Shia groups, Yadlin observed that Hizballah hates Al Qaeda more than it wants to cooperate with it.

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ISRAEL TO RE-EXAMINE IRAQ  
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¶8. (C) Saying that "we have to go back and look at Iraq more carefully," Yadlin expressed interest in what the Baker-Hamilton Commission report would contain. Townsend said that whatever the panel suggests, the U.S. will consider all options that would improve the situation in Iraq. Yadlin replied that Iraq may pose more dangers and opportunities for Israel now.

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YADLIN: U.S. SUCCESSFUL IN WAR ON TERROR  
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¶9. (C) Yadlin concluded the meeting by saying that the U.S. has been successful in the War on Terror. He asked if the American people are prepared for another five years in the War on Terror. Townsend replied that optimism is a trait that is fundamental to the American character and that we must guard against optimism leading to complacency. Citing the recent airline plot, she noted there must be an acknowledgement of the continuing challenge of terror. Yadlin said that Israel has dramatically reduced Palestinian terrorism, and that as a result, Israel's economic indicators have rebounded. Yadlin emphasized Israel's support for the U.S. in fighting terror. "We share the same enemies and the same values," he said, and he stands ready to share any intelligence requested.

¶10. (C) This cable has been cleared by APHSCT Frances Fragos Townsend.

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Visit Embassy Tel Aviv's Classified Website:  
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/telaviv>

You can also access this site through the State Department's Classified SIPRNET website.

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CRETZ